



Daily Report

West Europe

FBIS-WEU-96-042
Friday
1 March 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report

West Europe

FBIS-WEU-96-042

CONTENTS

1 March 1996

INTER-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

EU: Franco-German Seminar on CFSP, Nuclear Safety [French Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW 28 Feb]	1
EU: Paris, Bonn Reportedly Agree on Foreign Policy [Paris LE MONDE 29 Feb]	4
EU: Benelux, France, Germany Favor More Flexible EU [Brussels EUROPEAN VOICE 29 Feb-6 Mar]	4
EU: Commission Supports Oreja's Reform Proposals [Madrid ABC 29 Feb]	6
EU: Study Shows UK, Germany Make More Rules Than EU [London THE GUARDIAN 1 Mar]	6

UNITED KINGDOM

UK: Trade With EU Showing Surplus [FINANCIAL TIMES 1 Mar]	8
UK: Adams 'Advised' IRA To Call New Cease-Fire [PRESS ASSOCIATION]	8
UK: Ulster Politicians on Possibility of New Cease-Fire [PRESS ASSOCIATION]	10
UK: IRA Issues Statement on 'Failure' of Peace Process [PRESS ASSOCIATION]	11
UK: Hume, Adams Interviewed on Talks With IRA [London TV]	11
UK: Leaders Comment on IRA Cease-Fire Issue [London TV]	12
UK: Adams Discusses 'Negative', 'Positive' of IRA Meeting [PRESS ASSOCIATION]	13
UK: Major Calls IRA Refusal on Cease-Fire 'Sick Joke' [PRESS ASSOCIATION]	14
UK: INLA Intends to Maintain Cease-Fire [BELFAST TELEGRAPH 29 Feb]	16
UK: Fringe Loyalists Confident of Role in Negotiations [BELFAST TELEGRAPH 29 Feb]	16

GERMANY

Germany: Ruehe on Recent French Decisions on Military [DDP/ADN]	17
Germany: Schaeuble Views European Unification [FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE 27 Feb]	17

FRANCE

France: Companies Prepare Post-Embargo Trade With Iraq [LES ECHOS 29 Feb]	18
France: Agricultural Agreement Signed With Iraq [Baghdad INA]	18
France: Chirac's Trip, Asia-Europe Meeting Previewed [LE FIGARO 29 Feb]	18
France: Foreign Ministry on Qatar, Greece-Turkey Dispute [Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW 29 Feb]	20

NORWAY

Norway: Yeltsin Said 'Worried' About NATO Exercise [AFTENPOSTEN 29 Feb]	21
---	----

CYPRUS

Cyprus: Government Views on Clinton Letter on Cyprus [Nicosia Radio]	22
Cyprus: Foreign Minister Calls EU Stance on Turkey 'Sad' [Nicosia Radio]	22

GREECE

Greece: Politician Criticizes U.S. Policy on Iran [IRNA]	23
Greece: Simitis Speaks on Domestic, Foreign Issues [Athens TV]	23

TURKEY

Turkey: Ankara, Moscow Planning Arms-for-Debt Swap [ANATOLIA]	29
Turkey To Launch 'Diplomatic Offensive' Against Greece [CUMHURİYET 28 Feb]	29
Turkey: Ciller on Nature, Goals of Coalition Government [Ankara TV]	30
Turkey: Erbakan Denies Army Opposition to RP [Ankara TV]	30
Turkey: Ciller Addresses Businessmen on State of Economy [Ankara TV]	31

EU: Franco-German Seminar on CFSP, Nuclear Safety

BR0103093196 (Internet) French Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in French 28 Feb 96

[Official Statements on the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and on Nuclear Safety in the Newly Independent States and Central and Eastern Europe issued at the Franco-German Seminar of Foreign Ministers held in Freiburg-am-Breisgau on 27 February]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Common Foreign and Security Policy [CFSP]:

Guidelines Adopted at The Franco-German Seminar of Foreign Ministers

After the upheavals of recent years in the world political arena, the EU member states can only deal with the major international challenges if they join their forces together into a Common Foreign and Security Policy. The next EU Intergovernmental Conference [IGC] must be the occasion to give the Union a greater capacity to act in the field of foreign and security policy; this is true from the standpoint of enlargement as well. The two foreign ministers have decided to deepen their joint consideration of all the major questions of this conference.

The primary interest of the CFSP resides in the stabilization of neighboring regions to the east and south, in the consolidation of transatlantic relations, and in the development of relations with Russia and Ukraine. Over the course of recent years, the Union has already exerted significant efforts in all these fields, and elaborated long-term strategies, while allocating considerable resources as well.

The accession of the countries of central and Eastern Europe [CEE] is being prepared by European agreements, by the pre-accession strategy adopted at the Essen European Council, by the structured dialogue, and by financial assistance.

The new generation of EU-Mediterranean agreements, the prospect of accession for Malta and Cyprus, the customs union with Turkey, the multilateral process undertaken at Barcelona with the Mediterranean countries, and the EU's major support to the peace process in the Middle East constitute a considerable contribution to the stabilization of this important neighboring region.

The EU-United States action plan adopted in Madrid in December 1993 provides transatlantic relations a renewed and enlarged basis.

The partnership agreements, as well as the Union's substantial financial and technical assistance, are encourag-

ing the process of economic reforms, and thus of democratization and stabilization, in Russia and the other nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS].

The EU played a crucial role in working out the agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina signed in Paris and is making a decisive contribution to its implementation, notably with respect to its civilian component, without which a long-term peace cannot be brought to the region.

The effectiveness of the CFSP must be strengthened and developed at the IGC, as it was established by the Treaty on the European Union, so that it can take into full consideration the common interest of the EU. The reforms for the CFSP which can be envisaged must result in strengthening its effectiveness, coherence, visibility, continuity, and solidarity. Toward this end, the two foreign ministers will commit themselves in the IGC to advocating the following positive improvements:

- greater effectiveness;
- greater coherence;
- greater visibility and continuity;
- greater solidarity, in particular in the field of security and defense.

Greater Effectiveness

The Union's capacity to act in the field of foreign relations and security must be strengthened, above all through a greater effectiveness of the decisionmaking and implementation procedures.

The European Council's competence to provide direction must be strengthened, with the goal of enhancing the Union's capacity for action.

The decisionmaking procedures provided for by the Treaty must be applied and developed, with the goal of facilitating decisionmaking to avoid the rigidities of unanimity.

Therefore, the following approaches, which can be combined, can be examined:

- differentiation between political decisions of principle and decisions of application;
- a mention in the treaty for the CFSP field of the principle of constructive abstention; and
- decisionmaking by qualified majority at the implementation stage.

In particular, as regards the implementation of such decisions, no member state can be forced to commit its own forces against its will in military and police

actions. Such member states, however, may not prevent the others from carrying out the measures called for by the decisions.

Greater Coherence

The Council, the member states, and the Commission must apply more consistently the obligation of coherence already provided for by the Treaty, in the interest of an effective and credible foreign and security policy. The member states and the Commission must actively and without reserve support the Union's actions, once they are decided, in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity. This means in particular that the Commission must be committed by a decision of the Council to the same degree as the member states. A procedure will be put in place which makes it possible to ensure that the Commission formulates timely proposals involving Council decisions relevant to the CFSP.

To ensure that this necessary coherence is implemented, a forecasting and analysis cell should be created. The member states, the Commission, and the Secretariat of the WEU [Western European Union] should make available to this cell, which will be attached to the Council Secretariat, the appropriate staff, and provide it access to their information. The mission of this cell shall be to disseminate their experience and knowledge among the members and to prepare proposals for actions.

Greater Visibility and Continuity

The institutions must be adapted so as to enable the EU to be clearly identifiable in its foreign relations, to speak with one voice, and to have the necessary continuity and visibility.

A new function should be created, which contributes to a better visibility and a better coherence of the CFSP.

The above proposals make it possible to ensure a greater continuity.

Greater Solidarity, Particularly in the Field of Security and Defense

To strengthen European solidarity, it is indispensable that the European security and defense identity continue to be developed by realizing the possibility outlined in the Treaty on the European Union [TEU] in the field of defense policy. In this context, the WEU shall have an important role, both as the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance and as the defense component of the EU. We envisage the following positive improvements:

— A political solidarity clause for all the member states should be inserted into the TEU. Of course, solidarity

also means taking into consideration the legitimate interests of each member state;

— The European Council should be given the task of defining guidelines in the field of security and defense based on which the WEU, at the request of the EU, will be able to carry out actions for the EU, including as regards the Petersberg missions;

— The objectives corresponding to the missions of the Petersberg Declaration should be inserted into the TEU;

— The EU's role should be asserted in the definition of the European joint defense policy;

— The European capacity for action must exist even when not all of the partners can participate militarily in an operational action. The solidarity of the other states should then be expressed by political support where necessary;

— Our objective remains the long-term integration of the WEU into the EU. The IGC must provide clear and precise commitments in this direction. Therefore, the WEU and the EU institutions will be brought closer together.

Solidarity must also be expressed by the modalities of financing operational expenses within the framework of the CFSP, which should be done, as a general rule, based on the Community budget, respecting the budget procedure and complying with the primacy of the Council in foreign policy.

A European armaments policy should be developed based on existing Franco-German initiatives within the framework of the EU and the WEU, with the goal of strengthening, improving, and rationalizing European cooperation and of setting up a European armaments agency.

Franco-German Seminar — Memorandum on Nuclear Safety in the NIS and the CEE Countries.

Germany and France, united for years in the conviction that Franco-German cooperation must contribute to the unity of Europe, to peace, and to cooperation among all the countries of the continent, are persuaded that the issue of nuclear safety merits particular attention in this context. They establish the following guidelines, with which they invite their partners in the EU and the G-7 to associate themselves.

Germany and France reaffirm their conviction that nuclear energy, one of the forms of energy of the 21st century, must respect ever greater demands in the field of safety. These apply to conditions of energy production as well as those of processing, transporting, and storing the waste. Nuclear energy can have a

future only if safety takes precedence over all other considerations.

In this context, Germany and France consider that problems created in the past must be dealt with today, in particular in the NIS and the CEE countries. Of course, the overall responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the operating states; nonetheless, Germany and France stress the necessity of an effort by the entire international community to improve cooperation in this field, in particular among the countries of the G-7, the EU, and Russia. Reactors which do not meet internationally recognized safety standards must be modernized or shut down. In this regard, it is of decisive importance that the Chernobyl nuclear power plant be shut down by the year 2000.

In addition, it is indispensable that each country have an independent, effective, and credible safety authority.

Germany and France recall the close cooperation underway between their safety authorities, their experts, and their industries, to develop a design for new-generation reactors which will meet the strictest safety standards. Germany and France invite other partners to cooperate with them.

Germany and France state their support for submission to international safety measures of those sensitive nuclear materials (separated plutonium and highly enriched uranium) not destined for military use, by all countries which have these types of materials.

These principles guide the actions undertaken jointly by Germany and France in this field.

It is in this spirit that our two countries are participating in the Moscow Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security (19-20 April), insisting on the importance of substantial results: The commitment of all the participants to a level of internationally recognized safety for all nuclear facilities; the implementation of the international convention on nuclear safety; adherence to the International Convention on Civilian Responsibility and/or the establishment of national legislation in the area of civilian nuclear responsibility; the acceptance, without delay, of the 1993 amendments to the London Convention prohibiting all immersion of radioactive waste; the confirmation of Ukraine's decision to shut down the Chernobyl power plant by the year 2000, in accordance with the agreement signed between the G-7 and Ukraine in December 1995; and the affirmation of the commitment by the G-7 states to support Ukraine in implementing this agreement.

The efforts aimed at enhancing safety in the nuclear field are an important aspect in the process of accession to the EU by the CEE countries. From this standpoint, we ask

our safety authorities to draft, in cooperation with the authorities of other countries which so desire, an official report which will be transmitted to the Commission so that it may devote to this question the necessary importance in view of the accession negotiations.

We are inclined to join our efforts and associate other partners with the implementation of concrete actions:

- We encourage scientific and technical cooperation among our safety authorities and the comparable agencies in the NIS and the CEE countries, as well as exchanges of experts and cooperation among operators of nuclear power plants;

- We are prepared to cooperate closely within the framework of periodic and reciprocal procedures for inspecting the safety of nuclear power plants in all countries which accept this "peer review" of their situation;

- We are continuing our coordination so as to actively participate with the other G-7 countries in the initiatives undertaken by the international community with respect to the shield of reactor number 4 at Chernobyl. In this respect, we attach importance to the study ordered by the European Commission;

- We call for joint work between Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus to set up an international center at Slavutich; we are prepared to support this center to contribute to resolving problems caused by the accident at Chernobyl in the fields of safety, of radio-ecology, and of the impact on human health;

- We also expect for the future an active commitment by the international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development]), to finance projects aimed at improving the energy supply and increasing energy efficiency in the NIS and the CEE countries. These projects must be one of the elements of reform of the energy sector, with the understanding that a particular importance should be accorded to the goal of improving the nuclear energy sector. In this regard, we encourage Euratom to continue without delay the financing of projects to improve the safety and profitability of nuclear power plants. We firmly expect the EBRD and Euratom to participate in completing the power plants at Rovno 4 and Khmelnytsky 2; and

- We consider the reprocessing of spent fuels and the upgrading of the plutonium thus produced in MOX [mixed oxide] fuel, respecting the necessary safety conditions, as an important element for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The plutonium resulting from nuclear disarmament could similarly be used for peaceful ends.

Moreover, the possibility of industrial cooperation capable of leading to a production of MOX in Russia is worth encouraging.

EU: Paris, Bonn Reportedly Agree on Foreign Policy

BR2902143996 Paris LE MONDE in French
29 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Lucas Delattre: "Paris And Bonn Agree on one of the Chapters of European Reform — Germany Makes Concessions on Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Freiburg-im-Brisgau — The future Common Foreign and Security Policy [CFSP] will not be the subject of maximum integration between the 15 member states of the Union. The principle of the consensus, and not of the majority vote, should continue to prevail for all major decisions on EU-external matters. But the solidarity between the member states should be strengthened when it comes to implementing decisions. These were the main guidelines adopted by the French and German leaders, when they met up on Tuesday, 27 February in Freiburg-im-Brisgau (Baden-Wuerttemberg).

Foreign Ministers Herve de Charette and Klaus Kinkel and European Affairs Ministers Werner Hoyer and Michel Barnier met up in Freiburg for their second "seminar" dedicated to defining a common position with a view to the Intergovernmental Conference that is due to start on 29 March in Turin.

Even though the Freiburg text devoted to the CFSP is still nothing more than a 5-page list of "policy guidelines," and although the two capitals are trying not to give the impression that they are imposing their will on their partners, the French-German position should markedly influence discussion by the Fifteen.

"Differentiation between the political decisions made in principle and the decisions actually implemented, a mention in the treaty covering the area of the CFSP of the principle of constructive abstention, decisionmaking by a qualified majority at the implementation stage:" Such were the prospects opened up by the document adopted on Tuesday.

The French and German leaders firmly reiterated the "supremacy" of the European Council on foreign policy matters, which will be acting vis-a-vis both the European Commission and the European Parliament ("a procedure will be established which guarantees that the Commission will draw up proposals involving the Council's decisions on the CFSP when called upon," the text states). But they have not yet managed to reach agreement on the specific attributions of a "senior [CFSP]

representative." Instead, they content themselves with talking about a "new post that will contribute toward the greater visibility and coherence of the CFSP." The German Government, which for once adopted a less "pro-integration" attitude, did not want to give this "Mr. CFSP" overly extensive powers.

Furthermore, according to the French and Germans, the European Council should have a "forecasting and analytic group" to bolster the "coherence" of the Union's external actions.

On the subject of defense, the French and German ministers envision boosting the capacity of European action by ultimately integrating the WEU [Western European Union] into the EU. "A clause of political solidarity for all the member states" should be written into the Maastricht Treaty to harmonize the Fifteen's points of view, whereas some of them — who are neither members of NATO, nor of the WEU — risk passing on their philosophy of neutrality to the other member states. The European defense identity should translate into "a form of political support and, if necessary, a form of financial solidarity" on the part of the member states that do not participate in future actions which the majority [of member states] opts to undertake.

To enable the Europeans potentially to take military action without the help of the United States, "at the request of the EU the WEU will be able to act on behalf of the EU, including with regard to the Petersberg missions." The WEU Petersberg Declaration, adopted in Bonn in June 1992, provided for European peacekeeping actions decided upon independently of NATO.

On other matters, such as those relating to the enlargement of the Union, the respective role of national parliaments and the European Parliament, or the "third pillar" (domestic and justice policy), the French and German positions are still some way apart.

EU: Benelux, France, Germany Favor More Flexible EU

BR0103111296 Brussels EUROPEAN VOICE
in English 29 Feb-6 Mar 96 p4

[Report by Rory Watson: "Drive To End Policy Paralysis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The bandwagon to ensure the EU a stronger international role is gathering speed as the final preparations are made for the overhaul of the Maastricht Treaty.

The lead to find a way out of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) cul de sac in which the

Union repeatedly finds itself trapped is coming from France and Germany. Their call for an end to the policy paralysis of unanimous decision-making was supported by the European Commission yesterday (28 February) and will be backed by the three Benelux countries next week.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos confirmed: "We are very much in favour of formulas which will stop progress being blocked. The Benelux countries favour more flexibility. The slowest should not be able to impose their rhythm on those who want to go ahead."

His tone echoed the criticism this week from French and German Foreign Ministers Herve de Charette and Klaus Kinkel of "the rigidities of unanimity" now bedevilling EU foreign policy-making. When the Intergovernmental Conference opens in Turin on 29 March, both will argue that the new treaty should make specific reference to a new principle of "constructive abstention".

In a clear sign that the Franco-German tandem is moving into gear as the year-long negotiations approach, the four-page memorandum agreed in Freiburg this week sets out the CFSP changes both governments will call for at the IGC.

They accept that no state may be forced against its will to engage its forces in military or police action, but argue that countries should no longer be able to prevent their partners from implementing such policies.

The Commission added its weight to the attack on unanimity in CFSP policy-making yesterday by recommending that qualified majority voting become the norm in the Union - a view expected to be echoed by the European Parliament when it endorses its own IGC submission in mid-March.

Commission President Jacques Santer, presenting the policy paper in Brussels, insisted that political will for the changes ahead was the overriding requirement as the IGC approaches.

"In an enlarged community, the retention of the national veto would lead to total paralysis. Majority voting must be the rule. In a Union of 20 or 21 countries, are you really going to restrict the process to the speed of the slowest participant?" he asked.

Confirmation that MEPs [Members of European Parliament] and the Commission increasingly share a common vision of the Union's future emerged yesterday when Parliament President Klaus Hansch welcomed the latest input to the IGC debate.

"The Commission demonstrates that it has recognised the challenges facing the EU and sees the success of the IGC as the essential first step towards achieving the

tasks the Union has set itself over the next few years," he said.

The Commission has also sided with Bonn and Paris by proposing that changes be made to the EU's treaties to allow some countries to move ahead in certain policy areas, including defence and judicial cooperation, even if a minority is opposed.

In addition, it recommends that the Commission president be given greater powers over the appointment of his colleagues and the distribution of portfolios. With the prospect of enlargement round the corner it argues that the big five countries should have just one, not two, Commissioners.

"This is a blueprint for the way ahead and we hope it will be the centre of gravity for discussions," said one Commission official.

The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium win finalise their IGC priorities at a mini summit of prime ministers and foreign ministers on 7 March. Apart from giving strong backing to the scrapping of national vetoes, the Benelux countries will tell their partners that the Union has to continue developing some of its core policy areas.

"We need to deepen internal market, employment, social and environmental policies. We believe the IGC should not be just about institutional reform in preparation for enlargement. It should also address problems of major concern to our citizens. Those are not linked to enlargement, but to the fight against unemployment," explained Poos.

France is placing similar emphasis on the need to give an added boost to European social policy.

Speaking to a German business audience last week, de Charette said both the 1989 social charter and the protocol annexed to the Maastricht Treaty represented major progress in the Union.

"Unfortunately, due to the opposition of one member state, these elements could not find their place in the treaty itself. I believe we must put an end to this abnormal situation and reintegrate the protocol into the treaty," he said.

Spain has become the first member state to hold the outcome of the IGC to ransom, as Madrid continues its campaign to change extradition rules in the Union. Spanish Foreign Minister Carlos Westendorp warned this week that if "political reasons" continued to be used to refuse extradition requests, "there will be no ratification of the IGC".

EU: Commission Supports Oreja's Reform Proposals

BR2902151696 Madrid ABC in Spanish 29 Feb 96
p 37

[Report by Alberto Sotillo: "Oreja Safeguards His Proposals For Employment and Defense With a View to Reforming Maastricht Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — Marcelino Oreja, the EU commissioner responsible for institutional affairs, secured the Commission's support yesterday for his ambitious program of EU institutional reforms to be discussed at the upcoming Intergovernmental Conference. Even the most controversial chapters — on Defense and Employment — have obtained support, without any changes in the former case, and only with a very slight change in the latter.

The Commission supported the inclusion of a chapter on employment in the EU treaties, but it insisted on adding a line specifying that "only a competitive economy is capable of creating jobs," a formula aimed at ruling out well-meaning but unrealistic policies and reassuring employers by stressing that policies to combat unemployment will safeguard the necessary efficiency to compete in a globalized market. According to Oreja, the proposal is "improved" by the amendment.

The aim has consistently been to find a balance between those who did not want any mention of employment in the treaties, because they believe the tendency should be toward deregulation, and those who would have wanted to turn employment into a binding and mandatory criterion such as those established for the single currency. The formula adopted by the Commission involves reviewing the effects of EU policies on employment and promoting voluntary agreements so as to multiply the efforts made in this area, but the Commission is also anxious not to give rise to false expectations and lead people to believe that, because concern is expressed on paper, the tragedy of unemployment can be solved by magic. There are no miraculous panaceas for unemployment.

Another minimal change was that to a paragraph referring to a reduction in the number of commissioners after the EU's enlargement. Right now, the paragraph does not specify that there will be a maximum of one commissioner per country, although it does state that the number of commissioners is to be reviewed. The aim of the amendment is "not to give rise to too much concern," according to Oreja. Furthermore, it is stated that the struggle against drug smuggling will be included among the areas of the third pillar (Interior and Justice)

which is to be "communitized" or transferred to Brussels.

Oreja had already indicated that his revolutionary proposal to abolish the right of veto in decision-making won support from the other commissioners without major problems, and that the most important controversy had originated over the chapters dealing with employment and defense. Nevertheless, in this latter area, his proposals are maintained with no changes. The aim is a common European defense policy with NATO as its central axis, while the WEU would become integrated into the EU. Commitments concerning peace-keeping missions would be allowed into the treaty and the door would be opened to the participation of defense ministers in the EU's ministerial meetings.

Spain will be attending the Intergovernmental Conference with the firm determination to abolish political asylum for EU citizens, so as to prevent any further scandals like the one caused by Belgium through its refusal to extradite two ETA [Basque Homeland and Liberty] suspects. Jacques Santer stated that "communitizing" Interior and Justice matters might provide a solution to this conflict. "I understand Spain's position perfectly well," he said, adding that this understanding attitude was also shared by the Belgian Government.

EU: Study Shows UK, Germany Make More Rules Than EU

MS0103115496 London THE GUARDIAN in English
1 Mar 96 p 16

[Report by Julie Wolf: "Brussels Hits Back Over Red Tape"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Commission, long-standing butt of British accusations that it is a powerhouse of ludicrous and excessive European Union regulation, hit back yesterday with evidence that the UK is churning out laws much faster than Brussels.

EU industry commissioner, Martin Bangemann urged critics in Britain, especially the media, to read the commission's study carefully. "It will turn their universe on its head. The figures speak volumes. Those that shout the loudest have sinned the most," he said.

The study showed that only Germany was ahead of Britain in proposing new rules and the commissioner added that the proliferation of red tape at national level is threatening to undermine the EU's internal market.

According to the report, during the past 35 years the EU has put in place a total of 415 directives and regulations covering the single market and products sold on it.

But during 1992-1994, EU countries notified the commission of 1,136 proposed technical rules. This figure would have been much higher if the three newest member states had been included.

Germany was responsible for 243 of the laws, with the UK next at 235. Together the two countries accounted for 42 per cent of national rules notified to Brussels during the three-year period. Bonn and London have been at the forefront of demands for deregulation at the EU level, with both countries pressing the commission to withdraw legislation.

France came next with 198 rules, or 17 per cent, with Italy accounting for 110 pieces of legislation, or 10 per

cent. Tiny Luxembourg only notified four new laws over the three years accounting for less than 1 per cent of the total.

The commission said: "The level of member state regulation has been high" in every year since 1983, when governments were obliged to start notifying Brussels of planned laws.

"It is not a once-for-all activity, but a continuous flow of detailed regulation which confronts and may perplex the supplier operating, or considering operating, on the internal market," the report said.

UK: Trade With EU Showing Surplus

MS0103113296 London *FINANCIAL TIMES*
in English 1 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Gillian Tett: "UK Records trade Surplus With rest of EU"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Britain recorded its first trade surplus for two and a half years with the rest of the European Union in December after imports from the continent fell sharply.

The surprise improvement, shown by the 56m pound surplus in official figures published yesterday, came amid fresh signs that demand is faltering on both sides of the Channel because of slower than expected growth in Europe.

However, the dip has not affected all sectors of the UK economy. Although an export-driven manufacturing upturn has been the main focus of the recovery in recent years, coupled with consumer caution, this pattern now seems to be reversing.

Imports of consumer goods and cars, for example, have risen slightly in recent months — providing one hint that shops and distributors may expect consumer spending to grow.

Meanwhile, separate banking data yesterday showed that although consumer lending only rose at a modest pace in January, demand for mortgage finance is showing some recovery.

However, manufacturing confidence may be weakening, with imports of investment goods used by manufacturers falling. These types of imports showed the sharpest quarterly fall in the last three months of 1995 for five years. Imports of German goods appeared particularly affected.

This trend echoes the surprise fall in UK manufacturing investment at the end of last year — and suggests that some companies may have fresh doubts about the economic outlook.

These doubts come as the UK export growth which drove the recovery two years ago is faltering. The value of exports in December was a seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent lower than in November, to EU and non-EU countries, the Central Statistical Office [CSO] said. Measured on a three monthly basis, in volume terms a better guide to the trend exports were 1.5 per cent lower in the fourth quarter.

The weakness was not spread equally: sales to Germany fell 3.3 per cent, while exports to Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg were at record levels. This patchy performance left exports falling more slowly

than imports, giving a 56m pound surplus in trade with EU countries, against a 118m pound November deficit.

The surplus helped bring the overall trade deficit with the world to 557m pounds in December, unchanged from November. This occurred in spite of the fact that previously published data had already shown that the deficit with non-EU countries had risen. Non-EU data are published before EU data, but the CSO is now changing the system.

The EU balance was much better than the City had expected, although the good news was slightly tarnished by the publication of separate inflation figures.

The European Commission issued its first harmonised inflation figures, showing that the UK had the fourth highest inflation rate in the EU last month. The figures suggested the UK would need to improve its inflation record considerably to meet the Maastricht terms for the option of joining the single currency.

UK: Adams 'Advised' IRA To Call New Cease-Fire

LD2902150096 London *PRESS ASSOCIATION*
in English 1347 GMT 29 Feb 96

[By Sian Clare, Deric Henderson and Chris Parkin, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams advised the IRA to restore their ceasefire during a secret meeting, it emerged today.

Talks between Mr Adams, the SDLP [Social Democratic and Labour Party] leader John Hume and IRA leaders, took place yesterday just hours after Prime Minister John Major and Irish Premier John Bruton announced a date in June for all-party negotiations.

The IRA is under intense international pressure to halt their latest bombing campaign, and unless they do, Sinn Fein will not be allowed to join the talks.

Mr Hume said today that the Sinn Fein leader had added his voice to the calls for a ceasefire.

"The objective of the meeting was very clear cut. It was a restoration of the peace process and a cessation of violence," Mr Hume told BBC TV's Lunchtime News.

Asked if Mr Adams had "recommended" a return to the ceasefire, Mr Hume replied: "Absolutely. Both of us met in order to do everything in our power to restore the peace process. He was with me on the same objective."

Pressed again whether Mr Adams had wanted a return to the ceasefire, Mr Hume replied: "That's right."

The meeting has raised hopes in Belfast and Dublin that there could be an early restoration of the ceasefire, but it could be sometime before any decision is taken.

Mr Adams, speaking in Dublin, said he had told the IRA of his "sadness and regret" at the breakdown of the ceasefire.

He said that in the "detailed and frank" exchanges, IRA leaders had spelled out their "firm and frank reasons" for restoring the campaign of violence.

But Mr Hume said he had received "no guarantees" from the IRA leaders of a fresh ceasefire.

According to a Sinn Fein statement issued today, Mr Adams and Mr Hume "reiterated their commitment to restoring the peace process" at the meeting.

It added: "They noted also the IRA's commitments to its republican objectives, the commitment to the resolution of the conflict and the IRA's acknowledgement that an inclusive negotiated settlement is required."

News of the secret meeting appeared to take the British Government by surprise with Downing Street saying they were unaware it had taken place.

British and Irish leaders were emphasising that Sinn Fein had been offered a path to the talks, but the price was an immediate renunciation of violence by the men of terror.

Both Governments firmly denied they had been pushed into announcing a date for all-party talks by the IRA's renewed bombing campaign.

Mr Major said the new deal between the two governments, announced at a mini-summit in Downing Street yesterday, provided a "route map" to all-party talks which Sinn Fein could join if they wished.

Mr Adams said that he had made it clear to the IRA that he wanted a restoration of the ceasefire.

"The IRA left quite clear that Mr Hume and I wanted to see an end to all armed actions," he said.

Speaking at Sinn Fein's Dublin headquarters, he said he "presumed" the people he met had included members of the IRA's ruling Army Council.

"They told us they were totally sceptical and distrustful with the way the British government used and abused their 18-month cessation.

"At the same time, they also said they recognised there was a need for the conflict to be resolved - and the way to do that was through inclusive negotiations," he said.

"I spelled out my sadness and regret that the ceasefire had ended, and they spelled out their very frank and

firm reasons for ending it. I reiterated my commitment to rebuilding the ceasefire," he added.

Quizzed about his ability to go to the IRA Army Council and ask them to reiterate the ceasefire following yesterday's Anglo-Irish summit communiqué, Mr Adams said: "The IRA can read these things for themselves. They are fairly literate and fairly intelligent and can make their own judgment."

He added: "Even if I was able to act as some sort of conduit, I am robbed of that ability because the Government won't talk to our party at decision-making level."

"The news from the summit was only developing during our meeting."

"Mr Hume and I pointed out what we saw was the need for everyone to play their role, and they pointed out for 18 months that they had kept a cessation and the British had thrown it back in their faces."

"Many of the reasons they give, I can understand completely."

Under the new deal, intensive talks between the Northern Ireland parties and the two governments will begin on Monday and last until March 13.

Sinn Fein will be allowed to attend, but restricted to dealing with officials, not ministers, unless a ceasefire is restored.

These initial "proximity" talks will cover arrangements for the Ulster elections and will consider whether to hold a referendum in the north and south of Ireland to get a mandate for a peace process based on a repudiation of violence.

Elections to a new body in Ulster are expected to take place in late May, with the all-party talks on June 10.

Today British and Irish politicians stressed it was now up to the IRA to declare a fresh ceasefire, but insisted the peace process would continue regardless.

Responding to Sinn Fein's statement on the secret meeting with IRA leaders, Irish Deputy Premier Dick Spring said he hoped it would pave the way to a second ceasefire.

"There is some hope in the statement - I think the fact that there are some references to the IRA's commitment to resolution to the conflict and indeed an acknowledgement that a negotiated end to the conflict is required," he told BBC Radio 4's The World At One.

But Peter Robinson, deputy leader of Democratic Unionist Party, said he had seen no indications that the IRA wanted to become democratic.

"A commitment to the republican ideals to the IRA means that they are intending to achieve their goals through violence.

"To say that they are wanting to resolve the conflict means that they will continue to attempt to resolve the conflict by defeating through violence all those who would oppose them," he said.

Earlier, Mr Major said, "We have set out circumstances in which Sinn Fein are able to bring themselves back into the democratic process.

"If they choose not to do so, then the democratic process and the negotiations will continue without Sinn Fein," he said in a BBC interview recorded before he set off on a tour of the Far East last night.

"What we've set out is a route map for the constitutional parties and for Sinn Fein, if they choose to take it, to proceed with all-party negotiations," he said.

Sinn Fein indicated it was likely to take part in the "intensive" consultations beginning on Monday.

But chief negotiator Martin McGuinness stressed his party required further "clarification" on points in the new package, including over the elections.

He also said there was "a chance" that the IRA ceasefire could be renewed.

UK: Ulster Politicians on Possibility of New Cease-Fire

LD2902165596 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1621 GMT 29 Feb 96

(By Denis Henderson, PA News)

(FBIS Transcribed Text) "Why do you demand things you cannot have, and then be disappointed when you don't get them? It's a very moral request, but an absolute red herring..."

This was David Irvine of the Progressive Unionists at his office on Belfast's Shankill Road today talking about paramilitary decommissioning, as a country yearning for peace hedged its bets on the possibility of the IRA reinstating the ceasefire.

Guns are no longer a precondition for talks next June, but they remain one of the key issues now on the republican agenda as the leadership considers its next move. Will they, or won't they?

They may be under enormous pressure to give way to overwhelming public demand, but not just yet according to Irvine, a leader of the fringe loyalist party closely associated with the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force.

He said: "The IRA will have nightmares over Mitchell. I feel they can and will call a ceasefire, but not before the proximity talks begin. They'll let everybody stew for a couple of weeks..."

Mitchell is former US Senator George Mitchell whose six principles calling on all sides to commit themselves to exclusively peaceful means are at the heart of this new package agreed by John Major and Ireland's Prime Minister John Bruton.

Everybody else has effectively accepted the agreement as a means of the best way forward which means consultative talks starting on Monday, an election of some sort and then the round table dialogue. So what's keeping the republicans?

Sinn Fein don't like having to wait until June 10 for the start of those talks, and even now they don't know for certain if the Unionists will be prepared to sit at the opposite side of the table.

They are still buffed by the refusal of British and Irish ministers to meet them because of the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. They are opposed to any elections taking place. They have an uneasy relationship with Mr Bruton and remain deeply suspicious of Mr Major.

At the same time they have to decide if they can sign up to Mitchell, and they know that once locked into all-party dialogue, decommissioning must be addressed.

It's now down to the IRA's ruling army council. In the meantime everyone waits, including Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party) leader John Hume, who played such a pivotal role in helping to broker the last ceasefire. It's now down to a question of trust on all sides, he said.

Mr Hume added, "The reason it ended was because of the level of distrust which built over waiting for 18 months without moving to all party talks. They obviously believe in what they are doing.

"We are all in our own way products of our history and in my view we have always had IRA in our history as we always had loyalist paramilitaries as well. I believe we have now reached a situation where we can take the gun forever out of our politics.

"But in order to do that the distrust factors are going to have to be dropped on all sides and leave the past behind us.

UK: IRA Issues Statement on 'Failure' of Peace Process

*LD2902212496 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1800 GMT 29 Feb 96*

[by Deric Henderson, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IRA tonight signalled a restoration of their ceasefire is not imminent. "A resolution of the conflict in our country demands justice and an inclusive negotiated settlement without preconditions," the Provisionals said.

As the British, Irish and American governments waited for some sort of move by the IRA after Mr Major's promise of all-party dialogue to start on June 10, the republican leadership, in their first statement, failed to even hint at the possibility of an early resumption of their ceasefire.

They said: "We repeat that we are prepared to face up to our responsibilities. Others need to do likewise."

It will be a set back for Mr Major, the Irish Premier John Bruton, US President Bill Clinton and the leaders of the political parties in Northern Ireland, including SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party) leader John Hume who had been looking for a positive response.

Mr Hume and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams met the IRA leadership as the Downing Street package was being announced, but tonight's statement confirmed Mr Adams' belief that another ceasefire is not imminent.

The full IRA army council statement said: "We wish to confirm that representatives of the leadership of Oglagh na h Eireann met with John Hume and Gerry Adams at their request. There was a detailed and open exchange of views. We listened attentively to the case presented by both leaders and noted their shared commitment to restoring the peace process.

"For our part we restated our absolute commitment to our republican objectives which include the free exercise by the Irish people of our inalienable right to national self determination.

"We also took the opportunity to reiterate what we said on February 9, stressing that a resolution of the conflict in our country demands justice and an inclusive negotiated settlement without preconditions.

"We pointed out to Mr Hume and Mr Adams that the failure by the British Government to put in place inclusive negotiations free from preconditions, the abuse of the peace process by the British over 18 months, and the absence of an effective and democratic approach capable of providing an irrevocable momentum towards a just and lasting peace in Ireland were the critical

elements which led to the failure, thus far, of the Irish peace process.

"We repeat that we are prepared to face up to our responsibilities. Others need to do likewise."

Downing Street refused to be drawn on the details of the IRA statement. "The important thing is to have a ceasefire. We will judge by results," a spokesman said.

UK: Hume, Adams Interviewed on Talks With IRA

*LD2902230996 London ITV Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 29 Feb 96*

[From the "Channel Four News" program presented by Jon Snow]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Snow] We are joined now by the two men who met with the IRA last night in Derry, John Hume, SDLP leader, and joining us from Dublin is Gerry Adams the Sinn Fein president.

John Hume, from your face to face encounter last night, from the statement tonight, do you accept there is not going to be a cease-fire in the immediate future?

[Hume] Well I certainly hope that that is not the case and could I ask David Trimble to read the statements issued by Gerry Adams and myself, and to read the statement from the IRA, because all of those statements made clear that the purpose of our meeting was a restoration of the peace process and a restoration of the peace process, as Mr. Trimble understands language, is of course a restoration of a total cease-fire situation. Leaving that aside, what the IRA has said in their statement, and what emerged in our dialogue last night which I found interesting, was that what they wanted to see was an inclusive negotiated settlement. Now, that's precisely what the two governments have stated in fixing a date for all-party talks. The objective of those all-party talks would be a negotiated settlement. And therefore I believe, if now we can remove the distrust, because my experience of last night's meeting was that it was the distrust over the 18 months of the cease-fire that led to the end of the cease-fire, if it can be made very, very clear that the negotiated settlement will be the result of inclusive dialogue involving all parties, I believe that there is a real hope that such dialogue would take place in a peaceful atmosphere.

[Snow] But Gerry Adams, on June 10 all-party talks is what has been promised and there seems to some sort of mechanism for getting there. What's wrong with that?

[Adams] Well, there's nothing wrong with that. I'm disappointed that it has taken 18 months for the British Government to grasp that necessary step although I welcome the fact that they appear to have done so...

[Snow, interrupting] But it is there now, it is there now...

[Adams, interrupting] Sorry John. You did not interrupt Mr. Hume once; so let me please marshal my thoughts. The fact that it is three and a half months off is also I think disappointing but, yes, you're right, it is there now. Except that they have said all-party talks without Sinn Fein. Now, I have to assert the rights of those who vote for our party; I also have to assert the rights of everyone else. If the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] was being denied their rights I would say exactly the same situation. There is a principle involved in the first instance and then secondly, it is strategically a wrong thing to do. We need dialogue. I myself came away from the meeting with the IRA with a very, very clear view that their skepticism and distrust could only be got rid of by actual dialogue. And I think Mr. Trimble, with respect to him, is misrepresenting what yesterday's meeting was about and he didn't bother, or at least he's misrepresenting what our statement said in relation to it.

[Snow] Right, but the reason why you are being treated differently from anybody else is because your military wing alone is still committing acts of violence; nobody else's is.

[Adams] Well, first of all, Sinn Fein stands for Sinn Fein and I speak for Sinn Fein and people vote for Sinn Fein. They don't vote for the IRA. If the British don't want to talk to the IRA that's a matter for themselves. They have to, while preaching democracy at everyone else, stop disenfranchising a section of the people who need a place in this peace process, so it merely becomes a distraction and it pains me even at this point to be involved in putting up this type of defense of the integrity and the rights of the Sinn Fein section of the electorate. Say that and let's leave it there and then let's try and look at how we move this entire process forward...

[Snow, interrupting] Well, John Hume, let me just...

[Adams, interrupting] ... no preconditions, and seeking agreement and accommodation as well as required.

[Snow] John Hume, let me bring you in there because the confusion and indeed the difficulty many people here on the mainland and indeed in the Unionist communities in Northern Ireland have is this distinction between the political wing of the IRA and the IRA. They don't see how you can divide one from the other.

[Hume] Well, let's clarify the situation. What I want to see is the situation where we have all-party talks where all sections of our community are represented at those talks, and that includes the smaller parties that represent the Loyalists that would be linked to the

Loyalist paramilitaries, because I want to see inclusive dialogue involving all parties. Now, I also want to see that take place in a totally peaceful atmosphere and we had an 18 month period when that could have happened. I regret that during that 18 months there wasn't a fixed date for all-party talks because I think they would have taken place in a totally peaceful atmosphere but now that it has happened, and I welcome the fact that both prime ministers have firmly committed themselves to inclusive dialogue involving all parties and have fixed a date for that, I hope that we can achieve the circumstances in which they will take place in a totally peaceful atmosphere and that all parties will be there based on their electoral mandate and not on any other basis.

[Snow] Gerry Adams, will you be going, will your delegation be going, to Stormont to meet officials on Monday?

[Adams] Well, we're going to meet between now and then and the Sinn Fein Party is a democratic party. We have a duty to uphold our electoral rights and we also have a duty to try and make this peace process work and to get it back on the rails and to get an irreversible thrust and dynamic behind it, so that those will be the elements which will be informing our discussions. I said in my statement about the joint communique from Mr. Bruton and Mr. Major that we would come to this in a positive way.

[Snow] Gerry Adams, John Hume, thank you both very much.

[Adams] Thank you.

[Hume] Thank you.

UK: Leaders Comment on IRA Cease-Fire Issue
*LD2902232596 London ITV Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 29 Feb 96*

[From the "Channel Four News" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the last hour the IRA has issued a statement suggesting there is not likely to be an early restoration of the cease-fire but the provisionals did say that they are prepared to face up to their responsibilities. Earlier it emerged that the Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and the SDLP leader John Hume had held secret talks with the IRA leadership last night. At the meeting both men called on the IRA to restore their cease-fire but no assurances were forthcoming. The exchanges were described as detailed and frank. Our correspondent Rory McLean reports from Belfast on the latest developments and assessed the messages from the IRA.

[Begin recording] [McLean] In Belfast, hopes that there would be an olive branch on offer very quickly from the IRA in response to the firm date for talks are fading. But the two politicians who went to see IRA leaders are suggesting the barriers to a cease-fire can be breached. Gerry Adams wants Sinn Fein to be allowed contacts with ministers before a cease-fire is announced.

[Adams] We will not, in my view, persuade the IRA to stop by excluding Sinn Fein. You won't shoehorn the IRA into doing something by keeping Sinn Fein out of something we have the right to be involved in, in the first place. Let's be quite clear about this. John Major cannot blame the IRA for excluding Sinn Fein, cannot blame Sinn Fein for excluding ourselves. It is he, and the Taoiseach, who actually excluded us and that is something I think is regrettable and something which I think they should retract.

[McLean] While in a new initiative, John Hume of the SDLP believes the British Government should talk to the IRA.

[Hume] I'm saying this with some consideration to build trust if now, if the objective is inclusive talks, that the government would talk to all parties in Ireland. And there's no great risk involved in doing that because people will know that they are doing it in order to achieve lasting peace and, given that they have done it secretly, when there was no question of cease-fires or achieving cease-fires, then I don't see any difficulty in them doing it now.

[McLean] But, observers believe that although there are few practical barriers to a cease-fire for the IRA the political ones are legion.

[Ed Maloney, SUNDAY TRIBUNE] The mood within the Republican community is one of distrust of the British, even distrust of the Irish government in some respects, and it is likely that their mood at the moment would be one to make a statement, if they did make a statement, much more conditional than the original 1994 cease-fire declaration whereas the demand from the British Government, and certainly from the Unionists, would be for a much more explicit statement.

[McLean] While the communique following the Hume, Adams meeting with the IRA is already causing some foreboding amongst Unionists.

[David Trimble, Democratic Unionist Party leader] What I find ominous in it is the references to the parties reiterating Republican objectives and a solution in their terms of the problems, without there being any reference to peaceful means, to the principle of consent, or the democratic process and I think it is a very ominous thing that there is no reference, no realization

that any way forward must be by peaceful means, by the democratic process, by recognizing the principle of consent, that seems to be totally absent from the minds of those at that meeting and I think that is not a good sign.

[McLean] At Belfast City Hall Unionists and Sinn Fein councillors work alongside each other every day and Nationalists believe that, despite suggestions from some Unionists that they will never talk to Sinn Fein and from others that they will only talk after a cease-fire, that there is already here a successful model for the process that begins on Monday.

[Martin O'Muilleoir, Sinn Fein councillor] The Unionists said they would never sit down with Sinn Fein; the Unionists said after the Hillsborough Accord in 1985 that they would never go back into councils but when the governments stood firm and said that this was what was going to happen, the Unionists came round and I think we'll see the same with talks. The Unionists will prevaricate, the Unionists will bluff but if they're told this is the date and we're talking real negotiations, then they will come to the table just as they have come to the business table in Belfast City Council.

[McLean] But if there is no cease-fire, that means that ministers will not talk to Sinn Fein in discussion due to start in this room on Monday [4 March].

[Maloney] Will Sinn Fein turn up at wherever the venue is on Monday morning knocking on the door demanding a room for themselves where at least the officials can speak to them and if they do what will the attitude of both the British Government and other parties, particularly the Unionist parties, be?

[McLean] And within the past hour the IRA has appeared to signal that the cease-fire is not imminent. In a statement issued in response to the Hume, Adams talks it said: We are prepared to face up to our responsibilities, others should do likewise. This is seen as dampening down speculation about an immediate cease-fire.

Rory McLean, Channel Four News, Belfast. [end recording]

UK: Adams Discusses 'Negative', 'Positive' of IRA Meeting

LD2902215796 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 2019 GMT 29 Feb 96

[By James Hardy and Deric Henderson, PRESS ASSOCIATION News]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The IRA tonight dashed hopes of an immediate new ceasefire.

Leaders of the Republican movement called on all sides in the Ulster peace process to face up to their responsibilities — but failed to commit themselves to ending the bombing campaign.

The IRA ignored a joint call for a halt to the violence made by Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and SDLP leader John Hume in secret talks with the organisation's Army Council. [passage omitted]

The statement blamed the "abuse" of the 18-month ceasefire by the by the British Government and its failure to put in place all-party talks for the lack of progress in the peace process.

Security chiefs shared the gloom of politicians in London and Dublin and Washington that the terror organisation was not prepared to act swiftly to reinstate the ceasefire, fearing another bomb could destroy the peace process for good.

But senior figures in the Royal Ulster Constabulary were taking some comfort from the fact that there was no hint in the IRA statement of further violence.

A senior RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] source told PA [PRESS ASSOCIATION] News tonight: "It's so difficult to anticipate what they intend to do next, but we believe they'll let things sit as they are ... for the time being anyway. But who knows?" [passage omitted]

Earlier, speaking on Irish television minutes after the [IRA] statement was issued in Belfast, Mr Adams said there had been both a negative and a positive side to his meeting with the IRA.

"On the one hand, we have people who are totally committed to their objectives of ending British rule and of partition, and of resisting by arms, if that is what it comes down to.

"On the other hand, they asserted they were not dogmatic about the use of the armed struggle.

"They acknowledged there needed to be a conflict resolution phase of all this, and they clearly stated their public commitment to a negotiated, inclusive peace settlement.

"So that's the positive and the negative."

Mr Adams said: "I don't want to see any other armed actions, and I think I have done a good deal to try and prevent that happening.

"I am quite prepared to do an awful lot more. This is not a last chance for anybody, it is a continual process to try and bring about a peace process." [passage omitted]

UK: Major Calls IRA Refusal on Cease-Fire 'Sick Joke'

LD2902222296 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
 in English 2105 GMT 29 Feb 96

[By Sarah Womack, Political Correspondent, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A furious John Major tonight condemned as a "sick joke" the IRA's refusal to call an immediate ceasefire.

In vehement language, the Prime Minister accused the paramilitaries of making a "pathetic response" to the hopes and dreams of people in Northern Ireland.

He said people wanted to hear that the IRA had given up violence for good, and would be "fed up to the back teeth" with their attitude.

And he sent this blunt warning to the IRA leadership: "The time for waiting is gone."

Mr Major was speaking in Bangkok, where he is attending an economic summit, after the IRA dashed hopes of an imminent new ceasefire.

Leaders of the Republican Movement tonight called on all sides in the Ulster peace process to face up to their responsibilities — but failed to commit themselves to ending the bombing campaign.

The IRA ignored a joint call for a halt to the violence made by Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and SDLP [Social Democratic and Labour Party] leader John Hume in secret talks with the organisation's Army Council.

Despite the agreement by London and Dublin on Wednesday [28 February] to meet a key republican demand and set a June 10 date for a start to full negotiations, the paramilitary chiefs held firm.

The statement said: "A resolution of the conflict in our country demands justice and an inclusive negotiated settlement without preconditions.

"We repeat that we are prepared to face up to our responsibilities. Others need to do likewise."

A clearly angry Mr Major, in a BBC interview, said: "I think most people will be fed up to the back teeth with comments of this sort that we get so repeatedly from the IRA.

"It is time for them to realise that for 25 years they have behaved in an appalling fashion. Nobody is going to give way, not now, not in the future, not ever.

"They either decide to behave properly and get into democracy, or democracy will go on without them.

"The sort of nonsense we have had from them this evening is a pathetic response to the hopes and dreams of the people of Northern Ireland. They owe it to the people who live in Northern Ireland to make a proper response. They owe it to them to do it swiftly."

Earlier in the interview, Mr Major said: "For the last 25 years the IRA have murdered people, they have bombed people, they have knee-capped people. They have dealt with people in a quite disgusting and disgraceful way."

"For them to claim anybody is responsible for what has happened in Northern Ireland over the last 25 years except them will be received with incredulity by anyone who knows anything about Northern Ireland and by the people who live in Northern Ireland."

There was no doubt about the words people wanted to hear from the IRA, Mr Major said.

"They want them to say unequivocally they have given up violence and they have given up violence for good, and they are seeking to ensure that Sinn Fein becomes a properly democratic party with the same democratic rights and obligations as the other political parties and it will then join in the democratic process."

"People have waited a quarter of a century to hear that from the IRA. I think they have waited long enough. The IRA had better tell us that is what they are going to do or the rest of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom had better realise we will proceed without them."

"The time for waiting is gone."

Asked whether IRA words could be trusted, the Prime Minister replied: "We will have to wait to see what happens over the next few weeks. The offer lies on the table, it is up to them. No one else can make it and no one else can be blamed but them if they fail to make it."

Mr Hume and Mr Adams met members of the Army Council on Wednesday as details of the Anglo-Irish deal emerged at Downing Street.

But both leaders frankly admitted that they had made little progress — a point driven home in the IRA statement.

It said: "We listened attentively to the case presented by both leaders and noted their shared commitment to restoring the peace process."

"For our part we restated our absolute commitment to our republican objectives which include the free exercise by the Irish people of our inalienable right to national self determination."

"We also took the opportunity to reiterate what we said on February 9, stressing that a resolution of the

conflict in our country demands justice and an inclusive negotiated settlement without preconditions."

The statement blamed the "abuse" of the 18-month ceasefire by the British Government and its failure to put in place all-party talks for the lack of progress in the peace process.

Security chiefs shared the gloom of politicians in London and Dublin and Washington that the terror organisation was not prepared to act swiftly to reinstate the ceasefire, fearing another bomb could destroy the peace process for good.

But senior figures in the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) were taking some comfort from the fact that there was no hint in the IRA statement of further violence.

A senior RUC source told PA News tonight: "It is so difficult to anticipate what they intend to do next, but we believe they'll let things sit as they are ... for the time being anyway. But who knows?"

Mr Hume told Channel 4 News tonight he still hoped there would be a ceasefire.

"If it can be made very, very clear that the negotiated settlement will be the result of inclusive dialogue involving all parties, I believe there is a real hope that such dialogue would take place in a peaceful atmosphere," he said.

Mr Adams told the programme: "I came away from the meeting with the IRA with a very clear view that their scepticism and distrust can only be got rid of by actual dialogue."

He insisted he spoke for Sinn Fein and the people who voted for Sinn Fein.

"They don't vote for the IRA. If the British do not want to talk to the IRA that is a matter for them."

"While the British preach democracy to everyone else, they should stop disenfranchising people who need a place in this process."

"We have a duty to uphold our electoral rights and a duty to make this peace process work and get it back on the rails and give it an irreversible thrust and dynamic."

Earlier, speaking on Irish television minutes after the statement was issued in Belfast, Mr Adams said there had been both a negative and a positive side to his meeting with the IRA.

"On the one hand, we have people who are totally committed to their objectives of ending British rule and of partition, and of resisting by arms, if that is what it comes down to."

"On the other hand, they asserted they were not dogmatic about the use of the armed struggle.

"They acknowledged there needed to be a conflict resolution phase of all this, and they clearly stated their public commitment to a negotiated, inclusive peace settlement.

"So that's the positive and the negative."

Mr Adams said: "I don't want to see any other armed actions, and I think I have done a good deal to try and prevent that happening.

"I am quite prepared to do an awful lot more. This is not a last chance for anybody, it is a continual process to try and bring about a peace process."

UK: INLA Intends to Maintain Cease-Fire

MS0103101596 Belfast BELFAST TELEGRAPH in English 29 Feb 96

[Unattributed report: "INLA Cease-Fire Will Hold"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The INLA (Irish National Liberation Army) intends to maintain its ceasefire, senior members of the terrorist organisation's political wing, the IRSP (Irish Republican Socialist Party), has told the Irish government.

An IRSP delegation led by Ard Chomhairle Kevin McQuillan had talks lasting over an hour last night with senior officials of the Department of Justice in Dublin.

Mr McQuillan said afterwards his party was insisting on being involved in any discussions about resolving the Northern Ireland problem, and was concerned about the deterioration in the peace process.

He added that he was hopeful that all sides could move forward towards substantive negotiations and that the peace process could be put back on track.

Mr McQuillan said his party did not see the necessity for elections to ascertain the participants in negotiations. "Everyone knows who the protagonists are," he added.

But he said the IRSP saw merit in proximity talks and intended to explore that avenue further.

UK: Fringe Loyalists Confident of Role in Negotiations

MS0103101096 Belfast BELFAST TELEGRAPH in English 29 Feb 96

[Report by Mark Simpson: "Fringe Loyalists Confident of Places at the Table"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fringe loyalist politician Billy Hutchinson is confident his party will gain some success at the polls in fresh elections.

And Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis has also predicted that the fringe loyalists will win enough votes for a seat at the talks table.

Mr Maginnis told last night's Counterpoint programme: "They have a contribution to make and I think some of them will be elected and I think I know who will be elected and where they will be elected."

Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) spokesman Billy Hutchinson, speaking on the same programme, said his party was not afraid of the ballot box.

He said: "Our party is confident and always has been confident that no matter what type of elections are put up, people will put us forward. We feel that we speak for the people and the people like what we have to say. We are prepared to go to elections whether we fail or not. But the British and Irish governments are going to have to remember that we need to be at the table and they are going to have to sort this one out."

Mr Hutchinson said the issue of loyalist weapons could only be discussed by two parties — the PUP and the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP) led by Gary McMicheal.

David Adams of the UDP admitted last night that he and his party had never been enamoured with the idea of fresh elections.

"We believe that it stands a real chance of excluding key players from the process," he said.

"This is a process of conflict resolution and those who have been involved in the conflict have to be, by necessity, part of the solution."

Mr Adams said his party would be lobbying for the electoral system which best suits the UDP.

On the Counterpoint programme, both Mr Hutchinson and Mr Adams said their parties accepted the six Mitchell principles.

Mr Adams praised the loyalist paramilitaries for resisting the temptation to go back to violence in the wake of the IRA's resumption.

Mr Hutchinson said: "If the IRA violence continues, I have to sit here and say loyalist paramilitaries will go back sooner or later.

"That's not what I want but the point is that it is conflict resolution and the IRA must stop now."

Germany: Ruehe on Recent French Decisions on Military

LD0103122296 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1029 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn (DDP/ADN) — German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe does not believe that the recent defense policy decisions adopted by France will pose any danger to joint military projects. Paris made it clear that it would continue to support the planned transport helicopter and the Tiger support helicopter, Ruehe said in Bonn. Nor could French remarks on the development of a new transport helicopter for the armed forces be interpreted as a move to drop out of the project.

Ruehe added that France's decision to reorganize its armed forces into a professional army would not be a model for Germany. Reform of the French armed forces is based on a different strategy to that underlying Bundeswehr reforms. Whereas the French are developing their armed forces in the direction of an intervention army, the Bundeswehr's core brief is national and alliance defense.

Paris is aiming for the capacity to deploy 50,000 to 60,000 men abroad. Reform of the Bundeswehr, on the other hand, assumed the deployment of 12,000 soldiers at the most as its contribution to international missions. "And it would have to be a very serious decision in a very difficult crisis to make us deploy 10,000 to 12,000 Bundeswehr soldiers outside Germany," Ruehe said.

Nor did the performance of the Bundeswehr provide any grounds for deviating from current practice, Ruehe said. The Bundeswehr as a conscript army had proved itself and had "performed consistently well, often even better, compared with professional armies internationally."

Chief of General Staff Hartmut Bagger said scrapping conscription will result in a "dramatic fall" in the quality of the armed forces and in a "dramatic change in the spirit of the army."

Germany: Schaeuble Views European Unification

AU2702153796 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER
ALLGEMEINE in German 27 Feb 96 p 8

[Report by Dieter Wenz on interview with CDU/CSU Bundestag Group Chairman Wolfgang Schaeuble in

Gengenbach on 26 February: "Schaeuble: Relapse Is Possible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Without close Franco-German cooperation nothing much will come out of Europe," Christian Democratic Union (CDU)/Christian Social Union (CSU) Bundestag Group Chairman Schaeuble said in an interview with FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in his home town of Gengenbach. He is sticking to his view that if economic and political unification of Europe is not achieved, this can also "become a question of war and peace in the next century." A relapse into old conflicts cannot be ruled out. The thirties are not yet as distant as some think: The Europe of alliances and counter-alliances, of combinations and rival alliances could return. Schaeuble said that he was sometimes worried "that we might be forfeiting a great chance."

Many things are already working across borders. Franco-German economic and technological cooperation is good and progressing. Cabinet contacts and dialogue between government parties is "better than ever." Schaeuble recently went to Paris along with other interested members of the CDU/CSU Bundestag group; fortunately, the party also included younger deputies, he noted. Schaeuble is a man from the Baden area on the Upper Rhine. All those years, the languages spoken in Baden and Alsace should have served as a Franco-German example, and maybe something like a western European zipper. "The essence of the essence of core Europe is the language of the other," Schaeuble likes to say. On the Upper Rhine, the language of the neighbor is German and French. "It would be a farce of our partnership if, in the future, we had to converse in English," Baden-Wuerttemberg Minister-President Teufel once said.

As of late, many things have become more difficult, Schaeuble said in the interview. Nevertheless, he was still optimistic. In France's political class, there are new clear positions, notably in the convictions of President Chirac and among Gaullists; people in Germany still tend to underestimate that. The French understand that the country can preserve the political importance it has had so far only in the European context and together with Germany. New efforts must now be made, Schaeuble said. Initiatives must be taken between Germany and France, "again and again."

France: Companies Prepare Post-Embargo Trade With Iraq

BR2902144196 Paris LES ECHOS in French

29 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Michel De Grands: "France-Iraq: Increased Initiatives With Expected Lifting of Trade Embargo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit to Paris of the Iraqi agriculture minister, at the invitation of General Jeannou Lacaze, former chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, has been rather overshadowed by the recent bloody settling of scores by members of Saddam Husayn's family. In the name of "government dignity," the office of the secretary of state for emergency humanitarian aid has announced that the minister's planned meeting with Xavier Emmanuelli has been canceled. However, the previous day the Iraqi minister was able to visit the Paris Agriculture Trade Fair and was informed of technological innovations in the agrifood industry, his country currently being in a very worrying predicament as a result of the trade embargo imposed by the United Nations in 1991.

Indeed, the lifting of this embargo is being speculated on today by all foreign countries, including France. As long ago as 1994 the National Council of French Employers (CNPF) was the first to act in this domain and, as it does everywhere else in the world, it led a businessmen's delegation to Baghdad. The employers' organization is to repeat this mission for a third time at the beginning of April. Officials stress: "We are working on the duration and are taking up a position at the technical level." Meanwhile, other structures are forming around Baghdad friendship groups.

The French-Iraqi Association for Economic Cooperation (AFICE) founded a year ago and which now has 15 members, is due to lead a mission of small- and medium-sized companies working in the agrifood and medical industries to Baghdad in April. The association arranged a similar delegation to the Iraqi capital last year. One of its leaders says that eventually the AFICE plans to create "a French chamber of commerce for trade with Iraq." This venture, however, risks overlapping with the work of General Jeannou Lacaze's French-Iraqi Trade and Industry Council (CCIFI) which could in the longer term become the French-Iraqi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, retaining the CCIFI initials. In the meantime, the former chief of staff is also looking to open a permanent office in Baghdad in April, run by a Frenchman.

Contacts have also been made in parallel by the French authorities. In addition to ministerial contacts, a delegation of parliamentarians led by Jean-Bernard Raimond,

Rally for the Republic deputy for the Bouches du Rhone region, has visited Iraq and has campaigned for France to adopt a highly open stance.

France: Agricultural Agreement Signed With Iraq

JN2902131096 Baghdad INA in Arabic

1045 GMT 29 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 29 Feb (INA) — Iraq and France initialed an agreement on joint agricultural cooperation. Iraqi Agriculture Minister 'Abd-al-Ilah Hamid Muhammad Salih told an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent here about the agreement today. Salih is concluding a five-day working visit to France.

Salih said that, according to the agreement, which was signed with the French Chamber of Agriculture, French parties will develop some agricultural products in Iraq.

Salih voiced his satisfaction with the outcome of his visit. He said: The visit was a success on the technical level. The French side expressed its full readiness to cooperate with Iraq on training and developing Iraqi personnel and expertise and to sign major trade deals with Iraq.

The agriculture minister stressed that this visit will have a positive effect on the level of cooperation between Iraq and France.

The Iraqi agriculture minister visited France at the invitation of General Jeannou Lacaze, former chief of staff of the French Army and chairman of the Iraq-French Council of Industry and Trade. The minister met with heads and officials of French institutions and companies, as well as parliamentarians and members of the French Senate.

France: Chirac's Trip, Asia-Europe Meeting Previewed

BR2902154496 Paris LE FIGARO in French

29 Feb 96 p 4

[Article by Baudouin Bollaert: "The Beginning of a Partnership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Asia, "a new frontier," for the EU and for France: This will be the underlying theme of the speech Jacques Chirac is due to give in Singapore today and in his meetings in Bangkok on Friday and Saturday (1-2 March) at the first Asia-Europe Meeting [ASEM].

The head of state did not want to be elected to take an interest in Asia. He has always taken a passionate interest in the culture and civilization of this continent which is already home to 50 percent of the world's population and will soon account for 50 percent of world

trade. His 43 private visits to Japan — before an official visit scheduled for the autumn — bear this out.

However, as regional specialist Francois Godement will tell us, knowledge of Asia does not always imply simply having precise or well-advised policies. He stressed that "the official lack of preparation" which marked the restart to French nuclear testing is "the best example of this oversight."

American Pressure

Now that particular page has been turned and nothing should stop France from strengthening its political, economic, and trading links with countries in the zone. While it has a 6-percent market share worldwide, France can only muster 2 percent in Asia. Nevertheless, last year sales in the region (including Japan) exceeded its exports to North and South America.

At the political level, Foreign Ministry sources claim, the current government has finally given France a "global approach" which marks the end of the "all-China" policy of the 1970's and the "all-Indochina" line taken in the 1980's. No more regrettable "impasses." Jacques Chirac will be the first French head of state ever to visit Thailand, a country where France has had an ambassador since 1685. Meanwhile, Herve de Charette will be the first French foreign minister to visit Malaysia since that country gained independence in 1959.

The revised French strategy complements the "new Asian strategy" approved by the EU leaders at the Essen summit in December 1994. At first sight it would appear that the Fifteen are looking to jump on the handwagon of growth (annual growth in Asia is 7 percent). As one French diplomat revealed: "It's no coincidence that over there they often refer to us as 'the new nations in decline'..."

However, the Asian states also have their needs. In fact it was the prime minister of Singapore who first mentioned the possibility of an Asia-Europe summit when he was in Paris in October 1994. This idea was snapped up by Germany and France when they successively held the EU presidency from July to December 1994 and from January to June 1995.

The Foreign Ministry states that the ASEM is a "victory" for the French-German axis: "One year ago nobody believed it could work." To make it a success, however, they had to deter the Eastern European countries and Russia from participating, convince India to abstain (so that Pakistan and Sri Lanka would not have to be invited) and, above all, prevent the United States from bringing in — in a roundabout way — Australia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

While it proved hard to restrict the number of participants to 25, the choice of venue naturally had to be Bangkok, the capital of a country that has never been colonized and whose king, Rama IX, is celebrating his golden jubilee this year. The date, too, could only be the beginning of March. As someone who knows the region explained: "...after Ramadan and before the monsoon!"

Group Photo

The Fifteen are not presenting a totally united front. For example, the Scandinavian countries are not keen to participate in the consortium that has been created to supply North Korea with civil nuclear power stations. Competition is fierce, too, between EU companies in the car, subway, and high-speed train industries.

Across the table, the Asian bloc is just as divided. There are a number of tense issues, notably military disputes such as the Formosa Straits, the string of Tokdo Islands, and even the Spratleys Islands which are claimed by six states. Military spending in the countries of Southeast Asia rose by 10 percent from 1994 to 1995.

However, each side would do well to listen to the other. A spokesman for the French president said: "Europe needs Asia and Asia needs Europe. The Bangkok summit must mark the beginning of a process of rebalancing and the construction of a Europe-Asia partnership."

One French diplomat considers that for the EU the aim is to "have a presence in Asia, develop real political dialogue, meet the vast equipment and consumer goods requirements of this region, and jointly prepare for the next WTO meeting which will take place in Singapore in December."

For Asia, the aim is to "take its revenge on history, avoid a head-to-head with the United States, take advantage of the European market — the largest in the world — and benefit from certain technology transfers."

However, we should not expect to see spectacular results from the Bangkok summit. As one expert states: "What matters most is the group photo." In short, nobody should do anything that could jeopardize this first contact meeting. The Fifteen should therefore discreetly glaze over the human rights issue. However the aim is clear: Get to know one another better so that everyone can meet up again in London in two years' time on the occasion of the next ASEM.

France: Foreign Ministry on Qatar, Greece-Turkey Dispute

BR0103100496 (Internet) French Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in French 29 Feb 96

[Daily press briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt to unidentified journalists at the Foreign Ministry in Paris on 29 February]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

France-Qatar

[passage omitted] [Journalist] Is France ready to help Qatar?

[Rummelhardt] France supports Qatar's right to have its sovereignty and independence respected.

[Journalist] Is there a defense agreement between France and Qatar?

[Rummelhardt] Yes, there is.

[Journalist] Did Qatar request assistance?

[Rummelhardt] I have nothing to add.

[Journalist] When will the naval exercises take place?

[Rummelhardt] I think that the date has been set but it is not up to us to make this announcement. It is the responsibility of the operational military authorities.

[Journalist] How many French ships will there be?

[Rummelhardt] All I can do is confirm that naval exercises will take place in the near future. Those exercises illustrate the military cooperation that exists between the Armed Forces of these two friendly countries.

Greece-Turkey

[Journalist] What is your reaction to the statements by Athens announcing Greece's intention to block the customs union with Turkey?

[Rummelhardt] A cable has just been brought to our attention... You know our position. We call for dialogue in a context of respect for the law.

As far as the 6 March 1995 agreement is concerned, it is an agreement between the EU and Turkey. It is an agreement made by the 15 EU member states. [passages omitted]

Norway: Yeltsin Said 'Worried' About NATO Exercise

BR0103100196 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian
29 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Morten Pyha: "Yeltsin Worried About Exercise In Norway"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Boris Yeltsin is "worried" and together with his generals he is fulminating against an ongoing NATO exercise in Norway.

"No reason for the Russians to worry," the Foreign Ministry said.

"Apparently Norway is on the point of becoming a pawn in the increasingly fervent presidential election campaign in Russia," AFTENPOSTEN was told by sources at the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry. They are calm about fresh angry outbursts from Russia but are at the same time a bit surprised over the intensity of the criticism that has been directed against Norway.

Yeltsin's press secretary, Sergey Medvedev, during a briefing in the Kremlin yesterday declared that the president is following ongoing developments near Russia on Norwegian territory with concern. He was referring to military exercises with participation from several countries.

According to Medvedev, such actions "do not benefit mutual understanding and dialogue with Russia." At the same time he said that such exercises inevitably take place and will take place and that Russia also will carry out exercises on Russian territory.

"Boris Yeltsin's plan to visit Norway has not been changed. The visit will take place at the end of March and thereafter follows a visit to China," the press secretary said. [passage omitted.]

Cyprus: Government Views on Clinton Letter on Cyprus

NC0103123096 *Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek*
1130 GMT 1 Mar 96

(FBIS Translated Text) Commenting on President Clinton's reference to negotiations for the international identity and sovereignty of the Cypriot state, government spokesman Ioannis Kasoulidis said that he cannot forbid the U.S. President from taking into consideration the issues being raised by the Turkish side.

The spokesman stressed, however, that the Greek Cypriot side's position is well known and is included in a decision made by the National Council. He added: When we enter discussions we will note that discussion will be conducted on the indivisibility of Cyprus' unitary sovereignty, but we are prepared to discuss jurisdictions and functions of the federal government and the federal cantons.

The government spokesman further noted we continue to maintain certain positions that we will negotiate. We will not go to talks setting an ultimatum for our positions and therefore, there is readiness for serious negotiations, Mr. Kasoulidis concluded. He also pointed out that it is a positive fact that Mr. Clinton refers to a single sovereignty and single international personality for the Cypriot state.

President Clinton's positions are included in a letter he sent to PSEKA [World Coordinating Committee of Cyprus Struggle] chairman Philip Christopher.

House of Representatives President Alexis Galanos rejected the position outlined by President Clinton on

negotiating the international identity and sovereignty of Cyprus, stressing that the sovereignty is single and there is no question of discussing it. Mr. Galanos, who is visiting New York, said that the Greek Cypriot side can discuss the question of the central government's jurisdictions within the framework of a federation. He stressed, however, that it is inconceivable for a state, even if it is a federal state, to have more than a single sovereignty.

Cyprus: Foreign Minister Calls EU Stance on Turkey 'Sad'

NC2802123996 *Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek*
1000 GMT 28 Feb 96

(FBIS Translated Text) In a statement today before the Council of Ministers meeting, Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhaïlidhis said the Greek Cypriot side believes there is no issue of linking Cyprus' accession course with the implementation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union, adding that this issue closed with the 6 March decision, Mikhaïlidhis said. Each case is being determined separately. He noted that the Turkish Customs Union has a separate relationship with the EU that, among other things, depends on its behavior.

The foreign minister did not comment directly on the British position at the EU Council of Ministers, but pointed out that the EU stance on the Turkish issue is sad. Mikhaïlidhis stressed that when one country's intervention in another's sovereign territory, especially when this is an EU member state, is being tolerated it also means that it is being encouraged.

Greece: Politician Criticizes U.S. Policy on Iran

LD28022.90596 Tehran IRNA in English
2120 GMT 28 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Feb. 28, IRNA — A popular Greek politician in an interview with IRNA Wednesday has denounced the United States and other major European powers for interfering in the internal affairs of Iran and other countries in the region for their own interests.

"We condemn the interference of big powers in different countries in the region and in Iran.

"The countries and the people of the region must develop political, economic and cultural ties to stop this kind of interference or boycott against countries which in reality is a violation of human rights," Dimitrios Tsivolos, leader of the Democratic Social Party (DHKKI) said.

Replying to a question on a U.S. Congress decision to allocate \$20 million for subversive acts against the elected Islamic government of Iran, Tsivolos replied:

"We in DHKKI are totally against such actions on the part of the United States or any other country which is an unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Iran."

Tsivolos was a founding member of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) in 1974. He was very close to PASOK leader Andreas Papandreu and served as alternate minister and later as minister of finance from 1981-1989 in the Socialist government.

He formed DHKKI in December 1995 after resigning from PASOK due to political differences. "I did not agree with PASOK's domestic and foreign policies," said Tsivolos, a lawyer by profession.

Tsivolos described the prevailing situation in the Middle East and the Balkans as "very dangerous."

"The new world order which the great powers want to impose on the region, each for its own interests, aims at exploiting the resources and wealth of the region."

"We the peoples of the region must understand that peace is in our interest and we must contribute to it. Unrest and wars serve the interest of these powers," Tsivolos said.

Speaking to IRNA in his office in central Athens, Tsivolos said his party wants to establish strong links with all the Arab and Middle Eastern countries.

"We have very good political and cultural relations with Iran. We believe that commercial and trade ties must

also be strengthened for mutual interests of both the peoples."

The outspoken Greek politician said the current Greek policy was dependent on the U.S. and the three major European powers, Germany, France and England, "which violate international laws and human rights for their own interests."

"We reject dependence from any country," he said.

Tsivolos predicted that no political party will get absolute majority in the Greek general elections in 1997.

"I do not want to predict our percentage from now, but DHKKI will play a catalytic role in political developments in Greece."

He said U.S. and the other European powers "were supporting the expansionist policies of Turkey for their own interests, and not for the sake of the Turkish people."

"The division of Cyprus also serves the U.S. interests," he noted. Tsivolos dismissed Western fears of an "Islamic threat" as a "pseudo-dilemma." "We say that the peoples of Greece, Turkey, Iran have common interests and must cooperate for peace and good relations. The big powers are working against the interests of the people."

Tsivolos concluded the interview with IRNA by stressing that, "the Greek people will not allow the American schemes to succeed, like the people of Iran did not allow them to pass."

Greece: Simitis Speaks on Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC2902114196 Athens ET-1 Television Network
in Greek 0909 GMT 29 Feb 96

[News conference by Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Simitis with unidentified correspondents at the Zappeion Palace in Athens—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Simitis] Ladies and gentlemen, a month and a half has gone by since I took over as prime minister and the new government was sworn in. The answer to the question of what has been accomplished so far is both much and little. Much because we overturned an atmosphere where substantive talks on political problems was pushed aside. A look in the press today is enough for anyone to believe that we focus on the course of the national issues, on economic problems, and on dealing with social developments. Interest in politics is the first and most substantive prerequisite for a creative discussion. Our government will pursue creative solutions for problems. The government bodies, the Council of Ministers and the Government

Committee, are operating regularly. The government is preparing work programs, defining specific obligations for each ministry, formulating priorities and timetables. This month we managed to create and establish another form of operation for the government. This new form of operation is a prerequisite for the government's productivity and effectiveness. [passage omitted]

Our top priority is to promote national issues, cooperate closely with European countries, and develop meetings that will allow us to broaden support for our just requests. Some cultivate the impression European support is obvious and that when it is not expressed immediately or as soon as we ask for it the efforts to coordinate with EU members have failed. We must understand that this is not the way things are. A common EU position, to our benefit, requires great effort and will not happen merely because we want it to. Progress on any issue within the EU depends on continuous negotiation. This is the experience we have had since we joined. You must promote your requests continuously, ask, insist, and negotiate. Rarely do you achieve something the first time. So, accession to the EU means continuous effort and continuous negotiation. A principle is valid in this course. We are EU members and we need to have words and initiatives. Our pursuit is a strong Greece in Europe.

Our message as far as Turkish relations and Turkey is concerned is: We are not pursuing anything, we are not giving up anything. We pursue peace and the implementation of regional international law. The EU partners know our clear position on this issue. The Intergovernment Conference will have to discuss the issue of foreign EU borders. For us—for Greece—the borders of any member state with other countries are also EU borders. The communal solidarity principle must be in effect for the protection of borders.

If a third country promotes requests or questions, international law must be implemented to resolve the difference. If no agreement is reached, the country that raised the questions must appeal to the International Court of the Hague. All of our interlocutors so far accepted our views on the implementation of international law. It was a significant advancement that during my trip, our interlocutors accepted that this is not a political difference that must be handled through bilateral negotiations, but is a difference that must be resolved based on international law.

The stance adopted by the Council of Ministers last Monday [26 February] reinforces our position. Some 13 countries—14 including Greece—supported this position. Of course, it would have been better if the Council of Ministers approved a resolution and Great Britain did

not veto it. But, it is significant and must not be overlooked that all EU countries—except Great Britain—want territorial disputes to be settled only through an appeal to the International Court of the Hague.

I will continue my talks with the governments of other countries to promote these views. I will visit Rome on 21 March and hold talks with Italian Prime Minister Dini and the Italian president. I will also visit Great Britain. As you know a meeting has been set with U.S. President Bill Clinton for 9 April. In this trip we attribute particular significance to developing our relations with the United States, but not only that. We also attribute significance in maintaining good relations with Russia. I will visit Russia after the presidential elections. The Intergovernment Conference will be held in Torino at the end of March. We will try to maintain an active presence at the Torino meeting and the necessary procedures that follow.

As far as defense policy is concerned, the Government Committee discussed defense policy and decided on general lines. In May, the National Defense Ministry will present to the Government Committee the medium term commissions program for approval.

Balkan cooperation constitutes a significant field for action. A congress on business cooperation between Greece and the other Balkan countries will be held on 11-12 March in Thessaloniki. Ministers and prime ministers of the other Balkan countries have been invited and I will be there as well. [passage omitted]

Of course, we will continue the government work outlined in the policy statement. There are sectors to which I did not refer, such as culture, but significant efforts will be made. At the same time, we will continue—especially myself—trying to convey messages on the style and ethics of authority, the political culture, and the cultural style of policy.

For many years, a climate was created in which political action had to be characterized by aggressiveness, slogans, exaggeration, high tones, and theatrical stances. This atmosphere penetrated all sectors of political life, of our life, from the voices about treason at the Chamber of Deputies, to the withdrawal of the opposition leadership, and to the stance of masked policemen during the inspection of a gypsy camp. We oppose this manner of political action and this atmosphere. Democracy, state functioning, and effective policy need arguments—not voices. They need consultations, social justice, and an understanding that everyone needs to work for the common good.

Ladies and gentlemen, what we will pursue in the next few months is a small part of what must be

done. But, I believe that if we proceed we will take a small but decisive step toward overcoming questioning and pessimism. We will show that we can change for the better and create hope for the future. Thank you. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. prime minister, two things. You told us in Paris that there were two prerequisites—that Turkey will appeal to the International Court of the Hague and that it will have no designs in the Aegean—to cooperation with Turkey on the EU-Turkey Customs Union. I want to ask if these prerequisites are still valid, given that after the EU Council of Ministers, the Italian Foreign Minister said the Greek side could have accepted a nonaggression statement from Turkey. The second question is, the National Economy minister yesterday said that not much can be done until the year 2000. What are you hoping for within the framework of the social agreement?

[Simitis] As far as your first question is concerned. Mrs. Agnelli represents the EU presidency and Italy, not Greece. Greece has said that it will not cooperate with implementing the EU-Turkey Customs Union as long as Turkey is aggressive and has demands. It would have been unreasonable to continue cooperating with the implementation of the customs union when Turkey was sending troops to Greek islands and threatening war. We told this to our partners and will maintain this principle in the next months. Our partners, Turkey, and the EU in general must find ways to resolve these differences—to be literal in settling the issues regarding the Turkish demands—in a way that allows no future problems. We want a policy of peace and friendship. This means the problems must end for good. We made our interlocutors understand this. We have no differences with Turkey, we do not promote demands. We have only one demand, we do not want tension. This is not only our problem, it is their problem as well. They must understand this and take care of it. There can be no cooperation when the agreement says Turkey must maintain friendly relations and cooperate with EU countries and it does not meet this obligation.

Now, the second question. Within the framework of the Maastricht Treaty, Greece has agreed with the EU to implement a convergence program in order to participate in the Economic and Monetary Union that is provided for in the Maastricht Treaty. Greece has every interest in implementing the convergence program because it will develop cooperation between EU countries, it will allow Greece to participate decisively in future developments, and it will create the prerequisites for a political discussion regarding further development when the third phase begins—the third phase being for EU countries not participating in the original core. We must imple-

ment the convergence program if we want to reinforce EU unifying dynamics and facilitate our participation in the Economic and Monetary Union. There are other countries that have their own problems. Belgium, for example, has a public debt so high that its participation in the third phase is ruled out from the beginning. When the third phase begins, Belgium will raise the problems of the Economic and Monetary Union under political prerequisites. Just like us. But we need to raise arguments that we will incur if we follow this course. But, the fact that we will follow the convergence agreement does not mean that we will proceed with the same policies followed in the past. I said before that we need to make a serious effort to cut spending and increase effectiveness. We must speed up development and reinforce social justice. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] As you have said in the past and repeated today, as long as Turkey provokes and threatens, Greece will not cooperate in implementing its customs union. Will we insist on this position, regardless of the effects on our relations with our partners? Even if this leads us to isolation?

[Simitis] Two points on your statement. First of all, during a news conference I, the foreign minister, or any official cannot reveal his policy for the next months or years. Because then there will be no negotiations or freedom of movement. Our position is clear: We are not cooperating in implementing the EU-Turkey Customs Union.

You asked me about isolation. I do not believe and I have no evidence that we will be isolated from the other EU partners. I have asserted that the partners had and still have a great distance from us: They had no satisfactory contact, did not have the briefing they wanted, did not have the relations through which they would develop their own views and hear our views. This is precisely the distance I want to overcome. I do not want isolation that existed because of the situation. The term isolation might be stronger than it actually is. The real term is that the distance must be bridged. I believe there will be no problem with explaining our arguments. The development at the EU Council of Ministers on Monday [26 February] showed that another 13 countries agree with us on the implementation of international law. Why should we be afraid we will be isolated? The term isolation cultivates an atmosphere of defeatism. We must fight for our positions. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent, speaking in English] There are a couple of other small countries in the EU that have borders with third countries. I am thinking of Austria and Finland. When you go around in the EU, are you going to visit those countries? I am especially thinking

about Finland, that has a long and interesting contact with a very naughty neighbor and I do not mean Sweden as you know. Also, I wonder, do you think that the small countries—like the Scandinavian countries and Greece—really have anything to say in the EU? Please answer in Greek.

[Simitis] During my meetings with [German Chancellor Helmut] Kohl, [French President Jacques] Chirac, Jean-Luc Deheanne, and [European Commission Chairman] Santer, I stressed that the problem that concerns us is not just a Greek problem. It is a problem that may appear in other EU countries and might concern their relations with third countries. This is why we need general rules for all the EU countries. This is why I mentioned today, and I mentioned to our interlocutors, that this problem must be discussed at the Intergovernment Conference. This was understood and I believe many EU countries will support that this problem must be discussed and general rules found.

Pangalos will visit the EU countries that I will not visit. As I have said I will visit Italy, Great Britain, and possibly Ireland, which will have the next EU presidency.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. prime minister, in a statement yesterday Mr. Santer referred to the borders issue and said he believes it will be useful to discuss this issue at the Intergovernment Conference. A short time ago you said there is some skepticism—including among the officials you met last week—that this issue could be one of the issues discussed in Torino and in future meetings. Do you believe this block of 13 countries plus Greece will go to the Intergovernment Conference united or there might be another possibility at Torino, because the EU-Turkey Association Council will be held first. That is, do you believe the 14 to 1 ratio will be maintained until then or might it be overturned because there is strong pressure to push the customs union forward?

[Simitis] I believe the 14 to 1 will continue to exist, because it was not formulated only in connection with how Turkey raised the problem. The 14 to 1 was formulated based on our pursuit and the principle of an overall settlement to these problems. All partners see that this problem cannot be prolonged and must end.

Mrs. Afendouli, because I will see the British and hold meetings, I believe the ratio will not be 14 to 1 but will become 15 to 0.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. prime minister, some people said you make a great mistake in the first days of your premiership, when you thanked the Americans

during the Greek-Turkish crisis. Can you tell us today why you thanked them and if you would do so again?

[Simitis] Mr. Dhimitra, that night Turkey proceeded with an escalation with no prior contact. At that time, President Clinton offered his offices with no previous Greek request. My reference at the Chamber of Deputies was nothing more than a note on the useful role he played in overcoming this crisis. Nothing else. And this has nothing to do with statements of subordination that were made at another time. And it also does not imply that agreements were made behind the scenes. We are defending Greek rights, we will be adopting measures, and we will be making the necessary statements that lead to getting the Greek positions accepted and safeguarding Greek interests.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. prime minister, how do you view Athens-Belgrade relations, because many things are being said and written regarding the Thessaloniki port and other issues?

[Simitis] Athens-Belgrade relations are good. We are in continuous contact with Belgrade and we want to expand these relations.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your two predecessors had announced officially that any advancement of Turkish troops in Cyprus would be a *casus belli* for Greece. I wanted to ask you if this position is valid—if you are committed to it—because you did not refer to it in your policy statement.

[Simitis] The position is valid. It is valid.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you believe that Greece can exercise its conventional right to extend its territorial waters to the 12-nautical mile limit and why is it not doing so?

[Simitis] Greece has the right to extend territorial waters to the 12-nautical mile limit and will do so when it believes it is appropriate. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. prime minister, what does the government expect the new Turkish Government—after it is formed—to do so Greece will not toughen its position on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union? Also, during your recent tour, did you get the impression or assurances by partners that they will move in this direction? One clarification, you said the EU partners and Turkey must find ways to settle the issue of Turkish demands against Greece and put an end to the problems for good. Can I suppose that a possible judgment at the International Court of the Hague will include a package of issues for resolution, such as the continental shelf issue and

the pending issue of Imia? Can a solution package be referred to at the International Court of the Hague?

[Simitis] Regarding your first question, Turkey has many possibilities. Let it choose. It might say that it has no pursuits, that this issue is closed. It might go to the International Court of the Hague. We will take a position depending on the initiative that Turkey will take and on how this initiative will cover or meet our interests.

As far as the second question is concerned, I want to clarify the following because there is some vagueness on this issue: On 20 December 1993, Greece recognized the authority of Article 36 in the Charter of the International Court of the Hague. [passage omitted]

Simply put, Greece has stated that it accepts the court's mandatory authority for all differences, except for differences on defense issues. If the other country makes the same statement and accepts the court's mandatory authority for all differences, it can raise any legal difference at the Court. Greece is obliged to participate in these proceeding and give an answer. Greece is not obliged if the difference is about national defense issues. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent, speaking in English] Mr. prime minister, sooner or later when the Customs Union will be implemented what will be its effects on Turkish-Greek relations? Do you believe the development in economic and trade relations will create a positive atmosphere for solving the political problems between Turkey and Greece in the short term or long term?

[Simitis] Greece believes Turkey's development is a process that will benefit our country and the opening of the markets will allow our businesses to become active in the Turkish market. Promoting development in Turkey will help all EU countries and Greece. This is why we have no objection, on the contrary we are interested in development in Turkey. But we do not want this procedure to be accompanied by continuous tension regarding our sovereign rights or the exercise of our rights. This is why we say these problems must end so that there are no more problems and the customs union can proceed unobstructed.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. prime minister, is your government committed to the decision made at the last political leaders meeting on a compound name for The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia? Will you convene another meeting of political leaders after the negotiations on the name issue end? How do you view the general issue of party cooperation on national issues?

[Simitis] Our position on Skopje is clear: We do not accept the term Macedonia or any of its derivatives. As you know, Skopje believes its name must be Macedonia. Meetings are currently being held between the two sides. If there is progress on this issue, if there are some points that make it necessary to discuss the issue again, the government bodies will discuss it and contact the other parties and the president about whether it is necessary to convene a meeting of the political leaders.

We are open to coordination with the other parties on any issue they want. The Chamber of Deputies will hold two debates in March. One of them will be on the Intergovernment Conference and the other on the economic situation. The Chamber is the body provided for in the Constitution in which views are expressed and policies are formulated

Pangalos called on all parties to contact him regarding the special issue of Imia and the Turkish demands. Konstandopoulos and one of Evert's associates talked with him repeatedly. Any political leader can talk with Pangalos and receive the appropriate briefing. Pangalos has participated twice in discussions of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations and Defense, expressed his views, and listened to the views of the other party deputies. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] In your speech today, you did not refer at all to Greece's relations with the Middle East countries. What will your policy for this region be and do you intend to travel there?

[Simitis] As is well known, Greece has traditionally had friendly relations with the Middle East countries. We will continue these relations and try to expand them. There is no time for too many trips in the next three months. We must first take care of our relations with the EU partners and the Intergovernment Conference. We must put some things in order and then we will visit other countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will France and Germany undertake initiatives to exert pressure for a solution to the problems with Turkey? Can you comment on a statement made by Van den Broek yesterday that the beginning of accession talks with Cyprus is a package with the EU-Turkey Customs Union? Thank you.

[Simitis] As I have mentioned repeatedly I discussed the problem with Kohl and Chirac and they said that when the Turkish Government is formed they will examine which initiatives or actions they can take to overcome the problems. It is up to them to take the initiatives. We stressed that they would be useful and necessary because we do not want similar disputes to be perpetuated.

As far as the Cyprus issue is concerned, we do not accept the argument that someone can raise the issue of postponing Cyprus' accession to the EU and this is why we must not raise such issues. This would be an argument that would paralyze us and justify defeatism. We will promote our arguments and promote the EU obligation to begin the accession talks with Cyprus six months after the conclusion of the Intergovernment Conference.

[Unidentified correspondent] I want to return to the 14 to 1 or the 15 to 0 ratio. What prerequisites do you believe must be met so that London will change its stance? And to what do you attribute Britain's stance last Monday [26 February] at the EU Council of Ministers?

[Simitis] Great Britain is always reserved about the procedures on joint EU statements on foreign policy

and defense issues. Britain has a rather different view than the other partners. It does not support to the same degree the need for closer cooperation on foreign policy and defense issues. Its stance might stem from a general view that these problems must be discussed by other organizations such as NATO and the WEU (Western European Union), not within the framework of the EU. I said before that the principle of continuous negotiations and permanent pressure is valid in the EU. We must have continuous contact and put continuous pressure on Britain to make it change its view. Thank you very much for your interest. I hope I answered your questions and clarified our intentions for the next few months.

Turkey: Ankara, Moscow Planning Arms-for-Debt Swap

TA2902163096 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
1602 GMT 29 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow/Ankara, Feb 29 (A.A.) — Turkey is planning to get military equipment from Russia worth of \$40 million in return to Russia's \$300 million debt it was reported on Thursday.

AA correspondent learned that nearly 1.5 months ago, a delegation went to this country to this end. Turkey's Ambassador to Moscow Bilgin Unan said Turkey earlier took several steps to purchase military equipment and weapons from Russia.

Unan said Turkish-Russian military contacts was in a high level and a Russian delegation would go to Turkey to hold contacts to improve military and technological cooperation.

Turkey To Launch 'Diplomatic Offensive' Against Greece

NC2902194396 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish
28 Feb 96 pp 1, 17

[Report by Lale Sariibrahimoglu: "Action Against Greece"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara—It has been reported that Ankara will react to Greece's effort to put diplomatic pressure on Turkey in connection with the Kardak crisis in the Aegean Sea by receiving the representatives of the Turks in Western Thrace at a very high level. It is common knowledge that Greece is very sensitive about the issue of the Turks in Western Thrace. The hospitality Turkey will extend to the representatives will mark the beginning of Ankara's diplomatic offensive against Athens.

Meanwhile, Turkey is preparing for the first time in a long while to raise the issue of the Turks who live on the Aegean islands. It has been ascertained that Ankara also intends to plan military exercises with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM] in the Adriatic Sea. Greece has problems with both of those countries. The military exercises will put pressure on Athens.

Ankara has disclosed that it welcomes the EU's statement that it is committed to its obligations to Turkey within the framework of the customs union system. However, Ankara is considering recourse to the International Court of Justice in The Hague if the EU postpones its financial aid to Turkey due to Greece's objection.

Officials have disclosed that Professor Huseyin Pazarcı, who is an adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

has met many professors in Europe to discuss the law of the sea. His talks were related to the research Turkey has initiated to establish the status of several islands and islets in the Aegean Sea.

Ankara will launch a counteroffensive against the diplomatic moves Greece made after the Kardak crisis to block EU financial aid to Turkey. It has already summoned Ambassador Umit Pamir from Athens for consultations and decided to put pressure on Greece in various fields.

1. About 1,500 Turks live on Rhodes and 300 others live on Kos. Turkey will move to strongly emphasize their situation for the first time in a long while. Meanwhile, Ankara will receive the representatives of the Turks in Western Thrace. Greece insists on describing the Turkish people in Western Thrace as only a minority. It avoids referring to them as Turks. It has been reported that about 25 leading members of the Turks in Western Thrace, including the Mufti of Xanthi, Mehmet Emin Aga, will arrive in Ankara today. Recalling that the representatives of the Turks in Western Thrace have always been received by high-ranking officials in Turkey, diplomatic circles say that the visiting representatives will clearly outline their "loyalty to Turkey." The representatives will also be received by President Demirel.

2. Greece has armed the islands close to Turkey's territorial waters in contravention of the Lausanne Agreement. Meanwhile, it has claimed that its airspace extends for 10 miles, regardless of the fact that its territorial waters extend only six miles. Turkey will inform the world that Greece has violated the provisions of international agreements by fortifying the Aegean islands and claiming that its airspace extends to 10 miles. It will seek to put pressure on Greece in international forums.

3. In 1995 Turkey signed agreements with Albania and the FYROM for military cooperation. There are many problems between Greece and those two countries. There is a strong possibility that Ankara will move to hold military exercises with them in the Adriatic Sea to put pressure on Athens.

It has been learned that the statement the EU made two days ago to the effect that "the problem that has been created by Greece regarding Turkey-EU relations will be resolved and the EU financial aid will be released in March if the new Ankara government takes a consistent and constructive approach" has made Turkey very uneasy. Diplomatic circles say that the agreement on a customs union between Turkey and the EU is a permanent document unaffected by the status of the Turkish Government. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reported to have reserved its right

to appeal to the International Court of Justice in The Hague if the EU decides to postpone its financial aid. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday issued a statement on the EU foreign ministers meeting two days ago. It said that Greece failed to secure the support it expected from the 14 EU countries and drew attention to the EU Ministerial Council's decision to issue a "statement by the chairmanship" instead of making an official disclosure. The statement notes that the EU Chairmanship Council has ruled that the release is not binding and said that Turkey has welcomed the EU's commitment to its obligations to Turkey within the framework of the customs union. The statement urges the EU to quickly adopt a decision to release the financial aid to Turkey.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that Federico Di Roberto, the EU representative to Cyprus, will visit Turkey to hold talks in Ankara on Friday [1 March].

Turkey: Ciller on Nature, Goals of Coalition Government

TA2902202996 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 29 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tansu Ciller, True Path Party [DYP] leader and prime minister, has expressed the belief that the coalition to be set up with the Motherland Party [ANAP] is the most auspicious coalition and government model that can emerge within the current parliament. However, she added, this association cannot be described as a true ANAYOL [acronym meaning main path, based on a combination of elements in ANAP and DYP], adding that it is more a question of a minority government or a tripartite coalition. [passage omitted]

Explaining that yesterday's meeting with Yilmaz was favorable, Ciller added that the two parties reached a unity of views in principle regarding setting up a five-year coalition based on the rotational premiership model. Noting that the executive program of the coalition will take shape in a couple of days as a result of the work conducted by the joint commissions, Ciller stressed that clarifying the issues, solidifying the association, and determining a timetable is important for the coalition's *raison d'être*. Recounting that tomorrow she will once again meet with Yilmaz to discuss the framework of the coalition and other related issues, Ciller said that a solution may speedily be achieved in the coming days.

[Begin Ciller recording] Esteemed colleagues, I believe that this coalition is the best coalition and government model that can emerge from within this parliament. We undoubtedly have not surmounted all the difficulties, however. I would like to state now that even if all the

difficulties are surmounted, the association will not be an ANAYOL in the true sense because what will emerge will either be a minority government or a tripartite coalition. I nevertheless consider these developments very favorable, despite the framework, and view them as auspicious for the country. I would like to note that we regard it as our historic duty to conclude promptly the work undertaken to form a government in goodwill, mutual understanding, and self-sacrifice. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, DYP deputy leader Ismail Karakuyu, in a written statement said that Ciller's and Yilmaz' agreement to form an ANAYOL government has generated a favorable atmosphere both in the country and abroad. In his statement, Karakuyu said: It is both regrettable and upsetting that some dissenting voices are being raised in ANAP despite all the favorable efforts and goodwill. It is impossible to understand why and to what purpose certain ANAP deputies issued improper statements that appeared in today's press. Karakuyu noted that they believe in the sincerity of Yilmaz and added that they realize that they should no longer take into consideration such improper declarations.

Turkey: Erbakan Denies Army Opposition to RP

TA0103104796 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 29 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Welfare Party [RP] leader Necmettin Erbakan has stated that a group of profiteers are trying to deceive the people by disseminating lies that the army is against the RP in a bid to prevent the RP from taking part in the government. Erbakan said that the Turkish Armed Forces staff abides by democracy and added that the issue of forming a government is in no way connected to the army. Erbakan called for those who are disseminating these lies to come out. [passage omitted]

Noting that claims that the army is opposed to the RP are unfounded, Erbakan continued:

[Begin Erbakan recording] I am stating here for a fact that the Army has nothing to do with this issue. Let he who is concocting these speculations come out like a man and I will personally take him by the hand to the chief of the General Staff. I am ready to do this. First of all, our Army is loyal to democracy and is the guardian of the Constitution, which is founded on democracy. Loyalty to democracy is part of the vows of the Army. Our army officers vow to remain loyal to democracy. This is the honorable Turkish Army we are talking about. For this reason, one cannot expect someone who has taken such vows to betray democracy. The Army has repeatedly stated that it is not involved

in the work to form a government and that this issue lies with the parliament and the political parties. It has expressed this over and over again. Those persons, who engage in this deception, flee when I tell them that we will go to whoever said that the Army is against the RP. They flee because these are lies and because this is a ploy played by a handful of profiteers. We strongly oppose our army being used as a tool in connection with this issue. We strongly condemn all those who disseminate such lies. This a fabrication from beginning to the end. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Turkey: Ciller Addresses Businessmen on State of Economy

TA2902103996 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 2200 GMT 28 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Addressing the International Congress of Turkish Businessmen, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller discussed the progress

achieved in the Turkish economy. She pointed out that thanks to the 5 April stability program, the foreign exchange reserves, which were down to \$3 billion, rose to \$20 billion and the interest rate, which stood at approximately 150 percent, was reduced to approximately 70 percent. She stressed that despite the cuts in state expenditures, the growth rate was the highest among the OECD countries thanks to the dynamism of the private sector.

Ciller said that efforts are being made to make the state more functional and to improve the cumbersome structure of the bureaucracy. She stressed that the infrastructure needed for privatization has been completed to a large extent. She called on Turkish businessmen to take an interest in this field. She said that Turkish businessmen must also take an interest in the oil and natural gas pipelines and in the matter of meeting the water needs of Turkey's neighbors. [passage omitted]

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

4 March 96